000 695 or the death sentence when the khan does not reserve the approval of the death sentences for himself. The law proceedings before the beg or khan are very succinct and take up very little time. During my trip through Bukhara in 1886, I once had the opportunity to study these proceedings of law in detail. In the town of Kitab where I was the guest of the Beg for two days, I was quartered in the citadel in the same court in which the Beg lived, and in fact my dwelling was just opposite that of the Beg. The second day of my visit was the weekly bazaar day, which for the natives is likewise day court , held for the greater convenience of the country-dwellers, who come on these days into the town from all directions. The Beg had already taken his place early in the morning beside an open window extending down to the ground, and awaited the arrival of the plaintiffs and defendants while reading a book. The latter, who were led in by servants in successive pairs, bowed down to the ground as soon as they were visible to the Beg, and with constant bowing and obviously with great anxiety approached the open window beside which the Beg was squatting. At a given sign the plaintiff began his speech, which was a bombast of one or two minutes, delivered with unbelievable speed and fluency. After the defendant had replied to this in similar fashion, the Beg, without looking up from his book and often without deigning to bestow a single glance on either of them, would deliver his judgment in a few words, immediately and without lengthy deliberation, and against this there was no further appeal. Both parties thereupon showed their gratitude for the judgment received by bowing to the ground repeatedly, and retired apparently in the greatest harmony. However, no sooner had they come under the archway of the gate, where they were no longer in view of the Beg, (I could still see them from my room,) then they usually came to blows all over again, until the men-at-arms serving the beg took them both by the collar and threw them into the street, in order to make way for the next parties. If a defendant was sentenced to corporal punishment, this was carried out on the spot. A carpenter was accused of not finishing a job promptly, for which he had already been paid and the beg sentenced him for this to forty lashes. The contract-breaking carpenter was forthwith seized, dragged before the gate and, to the great /212/ pleasure of the bazaar public, treated to the decreed thrashing. The man in question, the Beg of Kitab, who on this forenoon had settled fifty cases in the given fashion without straining himself particularly, was, by way of exception, a mullah himself and a very enlightened man, and for this reason he decided all matters in dispute personally.

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